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United States Patent [19][11] **Patent Number:** **6,145,023****Iwasaki**[45] **Date of Patent:** ***Nov. 7, 2000**

[54] **INFORMATION STORAGE AND INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEM UTILIZING STATE-DESIGNATING MEMBER PROVIDED ON SUPPORTING CARD SURFACE WHICH PRODUCES WRITE-PERMITTING OR WRITE-INHIBITING SIGNAL**

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[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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[51] **Int. Cl.⁷** **G06F 13/12; G11B 23/03**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **710/13; 710/8; 340/870.16; 361/684; 361/737; 455/41; 360/133**

[58] **Field of Search** **340/870.16; 361/684; 361/737; 235/492; 455/41; 360/133; 710/13.**
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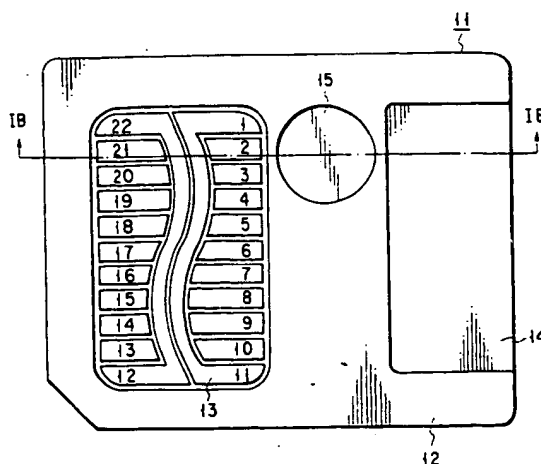
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

In a small and thin memory module for sharing data among electronic devices such as information processing apparatuses, a write prohibit state can be visually recognized. A conductive seal is attached to a predetermined position on a support member, thereby setting the memory module in the write prohibit state. The conductive seal visually indicates the write prohibit state. When the memory module is mounted in a connector section of a card-shaped holder, connector pins are electrically connected to each other via the conductive seal. Thus, a write prohibit mechanism is realized at low cost.

36 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



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